

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 13-33 remain in the application. None of the claims have been amended.

Claims 13, 14, and 20-22 were rejected as being anticipated by Shizuno (US 2006/0043514 A1) and claims 15-19 were rejected as being obvious over Shizuno under 35 U.S.C. § 103. We respectfully traverse.

Shizuno has a filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of **October 31, 2003**. The instant application claims the priority, under 35 U.S.C. § 119, of German patent application No. 102 59 795.2. The German priority application was filed on **December 19, 2002**. Enclosed herewith is a certified translation of the priority application. The certified priority document has been submitted. See PTOL-326, item 12.

In light of the foregoing, applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 has been perfected and the reference to Shizuno is no longer available as a prior art reference.

The indicated allowability of claims 23-33 has been appreciatively noted. In light of the perfection of applicant's priority claim, however, no claim amendments appear necessary.

It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. The issuance of a
Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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May 9, 2006

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